Interrogator/Tag Docking Station (TDS) Registration: 4 Things You CANNOT Forget!

Some information for this article was extracted from the 2005 AIT/RFID Operations Guide soon to be published.

It is critical that you correctly set **ALL** registration fields prior to registering your interrogator/TDS. It is important that you provide complete and accurate information when setting up your interrogator or TDS. For a more in-depth "how-to" process on how to register your site, you can visit the following sites:

Total Asset Visibility/In-transit Visibility (ITV) Processing Station (TIPS) Write and Read Operations Tutorial: https://highland.rfitv.army.mil/TT/

AIT/RFID Operations Guidebook:
http://www.cascom.army.mil/Automation/ITV/guidebooks/index.htm

Here are four things that you must not forget when registering your interrogator or TDS:

1. ***Point of Contact (POC) Information***. If your interrogator POC information is incomplete or inaccurate, your unit will not be able to be contacted for system or software updates, problems, or maintenance. People are transferred and duties are often re-assigned, therefore, we recommend periodic review of your previously registered interrogators to ensure that contact information is kept up to date.

Interrogator ID	24899
Interrogator Name	LEER1
Interrogator Description	LEE VA SISISKY GATE
Function	READ
Location	LEE
Status Date	04-NOV-04 17:40:00
Status Comment	0
Registration Date	03-NOV-04 20:02:00
POC Name	RICHARD BOCH
POC Email	BOCHR@LEE.ARMY.MIL
POC Phone	8047341905 S/N A43793000015
Interrogator Interval	00:00:05
Upload Interval	01:00:00
Software Version	TIPS-Read 3.5.0.40
Latitude	37°15'09" N
Longitude	077°20'09" W
Communication Mode	HTTPS-Modem
Regional Server	US

If information concerning your site changes, the site should be re-registered as soon as possible so that the new information is uploaded to the ITV server. It is also a good idea to log onto the ITV server about an hour later and confirm that the changes were accepted and correct.

With the Savi software upgrade currently in progress, now is a good time to make sure your interrogator information is up to date so you can be contacted!

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the following points of contact:

QA ITV Server

Ralph Ocasio
Section Lead
ralph.ocasio@us.army.mil
(703) 339-4400 ext. 104

Jerry Rodgers
Operational Readiness
jerry.d.rodgers@us.army.mil
(703) 339-4400 ext. 112

Tom Kershaw
PACOM Operational Readiness
thomas.kershaw@us.army.mil
(703) 339-4400 ext. 113

Kathy Flowers
CONUS Operational Readiness
Kathy.bonds1@us.army.mil
(703) 339-4400 ext. 117

Harry Meisell
CENTCOM/NATO
harry.meisell@us.army.mil
(703) 339-4400 ext. 124

TIPS/ITV Server Training

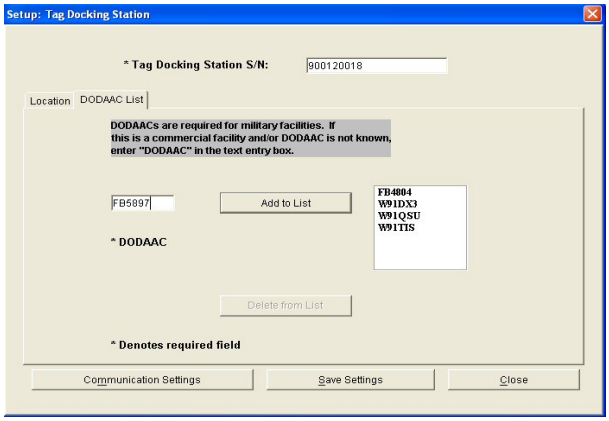
Richard Mack
rmack4@csc.com
(804) 863-2485 ext. 205

Sherman Duncan
sduncan@lesco-logistics.com
(804) 863-2485 ext. 206

Bob Wendt
robert.m.wendt.lsg@lee.army.mil
(804) 734-1692 (DSN 687)

If this newsletter has been forwarded to you and you would like to be added to the distribution list, please send your request via E-mail to PM J-AIT (Jerry Rodgers) at jerry.d.rodgers@us.army.mil.

2. ***Supporting Department of Defense Activity Address Codes (DODAAC)***. The ITV system is designed to produce In-transit Data Reporting Documents (TK6s) when cargo reaches its final destination. Interrogators need to be up-loaded with the DODAAC(s) of the Supply Support Activities (SSA)/units supported at the particular camp or site. When adding DODAACs to an interrogator, it is important to add **all** the DODAACs for units supported by the receiving SSA. When RFID tags are read, the interrogator makes a comparison between the "Consignee" DODAAC on the RFID tag and the DODAAC(s) up-loaded to the interrogators. If there is a match (meaning the cargo belongs to a unit located at the camp or site), a TK6 is automatically produced on the ITV server. If there is no match during the comparison, the normal date/time/location stamp is annotated on the server and the tag is viewed as still in-transit. The benefit of the posting of the TK6 is that analysis of the distribution process of your shipments can stop at the point the TK6 is posted and not be confused with follow-on movement of the tag without cargo affecting Customer Wait Time (CWT).

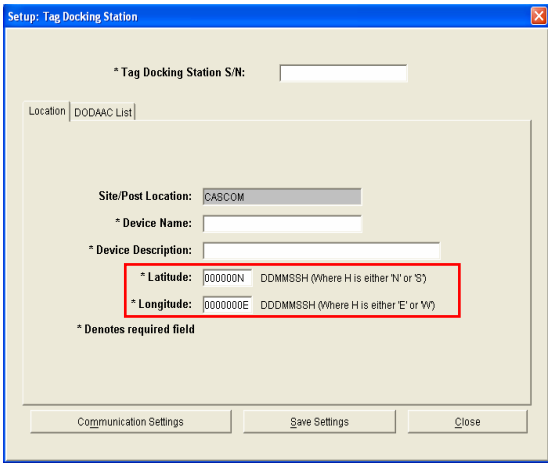


Not all interrogators will have supported DODAAC(s) associated with them because the interrogator may be at a site where they serve as a main entry/departure point for material in route to other destinations (example: SHUAIBAH PORT KU NORTH GATE). In this case, no DODAAC(s) need to be associated with these interrogators because they serve as a transportation hub or node.

Just because a TK6 is generated does not mean the tag is no longer reporting or active. To deactivate the tag, invert the battery.

If you do not know your supported DODAACs see your Subject Matter Expert (SME) or Field Support Engineer (FSE) designated in your current support structure, or your supervisor/system administrator.

3. ***Latitude/Longitude (Lat/Long)***. The Lat/Long coordinates on the interrogator's registration page, make the difference in finding the correct location of an interrogator/TDS on the ITV server's Web Mapping Application. This information is not automatically generated by the ITV server and must be entered by the user when setting up an interrogator/TDS. Additionally, the Lat/Long coordinates are also used by other systems, such as Battle Command Sustainment and Support System (BCS^3) in their mapping applications.



To look up Lat/Long coordinates in the Continental United States (CONUS), use the ITV server's Web Mapping Application or go to http://www.topozone.com.

If using Topozone, change the format from Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) (on the left side of the page) to date-minute-second (DD.MM.SS) format so that your longitude and latitude coordinates are consistent with the ITV Server.

The United States is west of the Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) so CONUS sites would be ***North Latitude*** and ***West Longitude***. This is important! If you enter the wrong hemisphere, your coordinates will be incorrect and your interrogator may look like it is located in the middle of the ocean or in a different country!

To look up Lat/Long coordinates Outside the Continental United States (OCONUS), use the ITV server mapping function or go to: http://gnswww.nima.mil/geonames/GNS/index.jsp and query on "GNS Search", the first option on the left of the page.

If the first part of the longitude is 2 numbers, add a preceding "0" to make up the 7 numbers needed. *example*: 75.55.25W will become 075.55.25W

4. ***Standard Naming Convention***. In 2003, PM J-AIT implemented a Standard Naming Convention for all Read and Write RFID nodes worldwide. Until that time, there were many variations of RFID node names, since no standard for RFID node names existed. PM J-AIT implemented the Standard Naming Convention standardizing data across the entire RFITV domain.

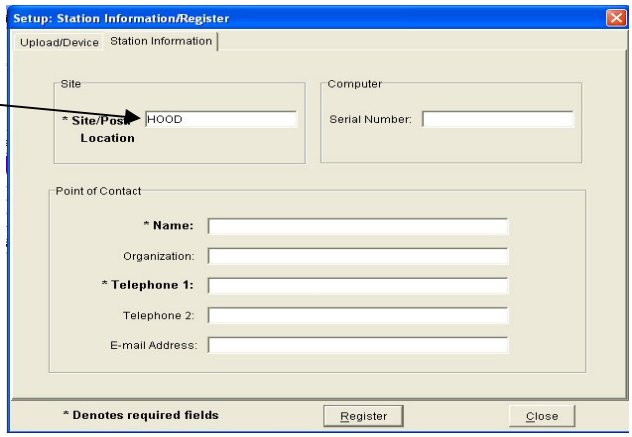
The following information was extracted from the RF Device Naming Convention Document. For more examples or further information naming your interrogator/TDS, you can view the policy at:

https://highland.rfitv.army.mil/rfitv/RF_Device_Naming_Convention.pdf

The standard naming convention consists of three components:

a. **Site/Post Location**. The data for this field is defined as the first part of the Interrogator/TDS Name (does not include function or sequence) and can contain up to 20 characters.

Example: For all of the sites at Fort Hood with the iInterrogator names, HOODR1, HOODR2, HOODR3, etc., the Site/Post Location for each of these sites would be **HOOD**.

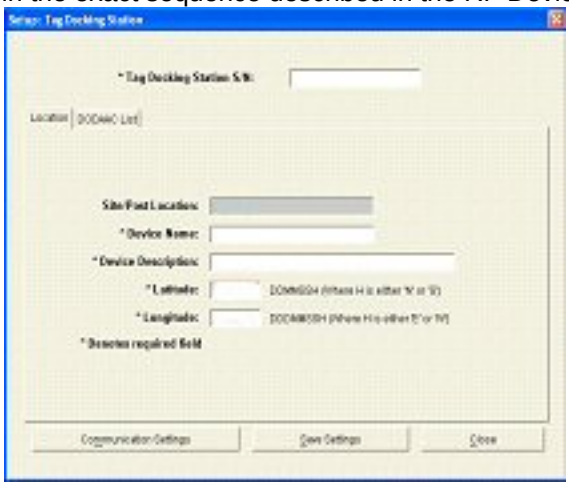


b. **Interrogator Name**. The name for your interrogator/TDS must be unique and no more than 20 characters. The name must reflect the location, function (i.e., "R" for Read or "W" for Write), and sequence number starting at 1 to xxx. If an installation or location has more sites such that the complete name exceeds 20 characters, the name of the site will be reduced to accommodate the addition of an additional number. No punctuation marks (i.e., comma, dash, colon, semicolon, period) can be within the description; however, a blank space is allowed. If the interrogator/TDS is replaced, the exact name should be reused.

Examples: BRAGGR1, BRAGGW1, CHARLESTONAFBR3, KITZINGENR2-S

System Identifier, if applicable. To get a system identifier, contact PM J-AIT. Currently two (2) system identifiers have been assigned: Standard Army Retail Supply System (SARSS) stations append "-S" and Deployment Asset Visibility System (DAVS) stations append "-D".

c. **Interrogator/TDS Description**. The interrogator/TDS description MUST include the following information and in the exact sequence described in the RF Device Naming Convention Policy and can contain up to 64 characters total.



CONUS Military Sites. The description must include the name of the military installation with the exclusion of the prefix. For example: Fort Bragg, NC would be listed as BRAGG. Air Force installations should include the abbreviation, "AFB" if in CONUS. The second piece of information used in the description is the state abbreviation (e.g., NC for North Carolina or VA for Virginia). Next, you should describe the function of the interrogator or TDS (e.g., All American Convoy Exit or Log Center Arrival/Departure). If you are setting up a mobile or temporary site using an Early Entry Deployment Support Kit (EEDSK), add "EEDSK" to the end of the description field.

Examples: BRAGG NC ALL AMERICAN CONVOY EXIT or HICKAM AFB HI MAIN GATE

OCONUS Military Sites. The description must include the name of the military installation with the exclusion of the prefix. For example: Camp Virginia in Kuwait would be listed as VIRGINIA. Alternatively, the name of the city could be used (e.g., Camp Carroll in the Republic of Korea could be listed as WAEGWAN; however you must be consistent for all the sites at the location. Air Force installations should include the abbreviation, "AB". Next, list the country code (e.g. KS for Korea, GM for Germany or JA for Japan). A list of country codes is available on the ITV server query menu. The next

piece of information you need to provide is the function of the interrogator or TDS (e.g., APOD Arrival Departure or ASP Truck Gate). Again, if you are setting up a mobile or temporary site using an EEDSK, add "EEDSK" to the end of the description field. Additionally, if it is a write station and "tag data" is provided to the RFID write software by a standard automated information system such as (but not limited to) SARSS, TCAIMS, TCACCIS, GATES, CMOS, AMS, the system designator must be included as the part of the description field (see special note below).

Examples: CARROLL KS 20TH SG SP60 WAREHOUSE
WAEGWAN KS 20TH SG SP60 WAREHOUSE
KADENA AB OKI JA CGO PROCESSING
KAISERSLAUTERN GM AEY 5TH MAIN SARSS

Special Note:

The PM SARSS began integrating RFID with SARRS during the summer of 2004. Installing RFID interrogators at the SARSS SSA sites in the European Theater of Operations was the first phase of SARSS AIT Integration. When a supply support activity site converts from an AIT RFID site to a SARSS RFID site, the interrogator and the site name are modified to reflect this change. The name change consists of adding a system identifier of "-S" to the interrogator name indicating this is now a SARSS RFID site. For example, the USAREUR G4 RFID node "KitzingenR2" became "KitzingenR2-S" when it converted from an AIT RFID site to a SARSS RFID site. The interrogator description is modified to include the entire system acronym, i.e. "SARSS." For example, the interrogator description becomes "KITZINGEN GM 147TH MT WQ7 SARSS". This change identifies the RFID interrogator as being an integral part of SARSS.

CONUS/OCONUS Commercial sites. The description must include the name of the city the site is located. Next, provide the state abbreviation or the country code. Finally, the description of the function of the interrogator/TDS should be listed i.e., WARNICK WAREHOUSE ARR/DEP.

Example: MCALLEN TX WARNICK WAREHOUSE ARR/DEP

New ITV Server Queries

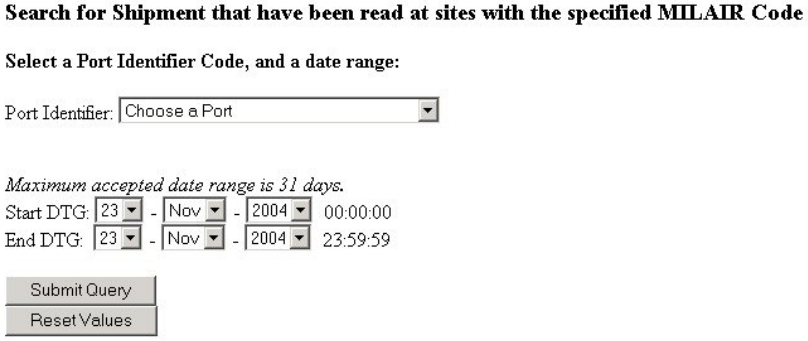
If you haven't been on the ITV server in a while, you may want to log on and check out some of the recent enhancements of some of the queries as well as the addition of new queries.

For example, the new Consolidated Aerial Port Query provides a quick pull down list to look up data by aerial ports within a specific date range.

ITV Server Guide 2004 and AIT/RFID Operations Guide 2004:
http://www.cascom.army.mil/Automation/ITV/guidebooks/index.htm

TIPS Write and Read Operations Tutorial:
https://highland.rfitv.army.mil/TT/

ITV Servers:
CONUS: https://highland.rfitv.army.mil
USAREUR: https://itv.aelog.army.mil
Korea: https://usfkitv.korea.army.mil
CENTCOM: https://cenitv1.arifjan.arcent.army.mil
Training: https://trainer.rfitv.army.mil



RFID Software/Middleware Refresh

PM J-AIT, in cooperation with contractors Savi Technology and UNISYS, is conducting a worldwide refresh of all fielded software/middleware, including the Government-Off-The-Shelf (GOTS) software, TIPS. TIPS-Read and TIPS-Write stations are the responsibility of PM J-AIT and will be updated by PM J-AIT's contract FSEs. The refresh is necessary to keep RFID hardware and software current while also ensuring RFID hardware and software compatibility. The EEDSK also uses TIPS software. However, the worldwide location of these kits is not necessarily known by PM J-AIT once it is issued to the purchasing military unit or organization. EEDSK users are requested to complete the information below, with "EEDSK" entered as the "AIS Supported" and submit the information to the email address shown below. This will facilitate PM J-AIT in locating these EEDSKs around the world and help determine the optimal means to update the TIPS software.

All EEDSK users please send an E-mail message to rfidmail@eis.army.mil with the following information:

Name: _____
Unit/Organization:_____
Commercial Phone Number:_____
E-mail Address:_____
Automated Information System (AIS) Supported: EEDSK
Government Point of Contact (Contractors Only):_____

Adapter Sleeve and Cable for the New SaviTag ST-654

SaviTag ST-654 Adapter

The new SaviTag ST-654, like the SaviTag 410 currently on the contract, is a high performance active RFID tag, suited for various applications including shipping containers, vehicles, and other large asset tracking. Available with 128K of programmable memory, the ST-654 tag supports all applications that its predecessor, the SaviTag 410 series, provided in a smaller form factor. Fully backward compatible with fixed and hand-held Savi Reader products, the ST-654 tags feature up to 300 feet of omni-directional line-of-sight range when mounted on a container. The ST-654 is made with Savi's EchoPoint technology and may also be used in Portal-Based Locating applications. The battery life, using lithium cells, is typically four years based on usage. The ST-654 is also certified as safe for operation with live ordnance. Since the form factor is different than the SaviTag 410, the ST-654 will not fit into the current Docking Station (SLINs X001AP-AT). Savi is offering two accessories to provide compatibility. The first accessory is the Data Cable (Model # STA-1030). This cable uses a RS-232 (DB9) connection to the computer and will work with TAV Tools version 3.6 or later and Client Tools 4.x or later. The cable has a fitted connector for proper connection to the tag, and is held in place by friction. The second tag write accessory is the Savi Docking Station Adapter (Model # SDSA-654-01). The Savi Docking Station Adapter inserts into and provides a direct connect plug-in to the SDS-1001 and SDS-2002 Savi Docking Stations, converting them into ST-654 write stations.


SaviTag ST-654 Cable

WANTED: RFID Tags

Suggestions for collecting and returning your unused tags:

- ✓ Set up a tag collection point.
- ✓ Once the shipment has reached its designation, invert the battery before you place it in collection box. This will deactivate the tag so it will not continue to be read uploaded to the ITV server.
- ✓ Send the magnetic mounts back too.

For more information on the DoD RFID tag return guidance and addresses, you can go to the DoD Logistics AIT Office website at:

http://www.dodait.com/refdoc/RF_TAG_RETURN_ADDRESS.pdf

OR

http://www.dodait.com/refdoc/RF_TAG_RETURN_ADDRESS.doc

In the Iraqi Zone, (IZ), return all RFID tags to:

RF TAGS for RETROGRADE
TDC, KUWAIT

The point of contact is TDC Commander, DSN 318-438-8246

PM AIT Becomes PM J-AIT

The office of the Product Manager, Automatic Identification Technology (PM AIT) is getting a name change and a new look. PM AIT is now Product Manager, Joint - Automatic Identification Technology (PM J-AIT).

pm J-AIT
PRODUCT MANAGER
JOINT-AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION TECHNOLOGY

Along with the name change comes a renewed commitment to providing total RFID solutions. PM J-AIT is still the same global entity for the proliferation of RFID as it relates to ITV, not only in the warfighter's line of supplies, but also to DoD and Coalition Partners in support of expeditionary logistics and the joint Warfight. PM J-AIT maintains the vision to increase warfighter effectiveness and Army efficiencies through improved source data capture and near real-time supply chain management by providing leading-edge, value-added, and approved AIT products and services.

PM J-AIT has a mission to be the single POC for acquisition, procurement, and technical expertise across the suite of AIT enabling technologies that support focused logistics, Total Asset Visibility (TAV), and the integration of global supply chains through AIT which provides near real-time accurate data collection, aggregation, and retrieval that enhance information management systems, metadata, and efficiency.

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